

LYMINGTON,

MARCH, 1921.

Lymington Rural District

Medical Officer of Health.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the Annual Report for the year 1920 of the Lymington Rural District which is 38,613 acres in extent, with an estimated population of 12,527 comprising the Districts of Boldre, (East Boldre and Baddesley), Sway, Brockenhurst, Hordle, Milford, Milton and Pennington.

Throughout the whole district there is an excellent gravel soil (except in the village of Brockenhurst) covered in its uncultivated part with heath and moorland and fairly well wooded and watered, bounded on the South by the Solent and the Lymington Urban District, and on the North by the New Forest.

The inhabitants are either of residential class or engaged in agricultural pursuits: the neighbourhood being entirely free from any factories.

The births in the year numbered 263 (as against 194 in 1919) 139 males and 124 females. The birth rate works out at 20·9 per thousand as against 15·5 for 1919.

The deaths totalled 121 (57 males and 64 females. The death rate being 9·68 per thousand compared with 11·53 for 1919.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Malignant Disease	...	20
Heart Disease	...	16
Pneumonia	...	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1
Diarrhoea under two years of age		nil

Infant Mortality.

Ten deaths of infants under one year (8 legitimate, 2 Illegitimate, giving a death rate of 38·2 per thousand as against 77·03 for 1919.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 43 cases notified during the year, Scarlet Fever 22; Diphtheria and Membrane Croup 13; Malaria 3; Dysentery 3; Erysipelas 1; Encephalitis Lethargica 1.

The Diphtheria occurred in the early months of the year at Milton and was a continuation of the epidemic of the last months of 1919. None of the cases proved fatal.

Eleven of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Swabs taken at the Schools by the Medical Officer of Health were of great Service in checking the spread of the epidemic.

Antitoxin is supplied by the Council for all cases.

Scarlet Fever.

This commenced at Boldre in September, 17 cases in all, 13 of which occurred in 3 families. One case occurred at Sway and four at East Boldre: the source of infection in the latter case being attributable to infection from outside the district. In Boldre sore throats without rashes were also very prevalent during these months. None of the Scarlet Fever cases were fatal and all but 3 were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Whooping Cough.

This was very prevalent in the last half of the year in Milton, Hordle, Sway and Pennington and Chicken-pox in Boldre.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

A fatal case of this occurred at Milford but was quite unconnected with any Influenza Epidemic.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were seven cases notified.

A grave danger to the public exists in the return of incurable or partially cured cases of Phthisis to their homes, which they promptly infect and are a source of danger to the other occupants of the houses, thereby stultifying any good work that may be rendered by the Tuberculosis Campaign.

Housing Accommodation.

Great progress has been made with the Building Scheme of 150 houses for the district, those in Boldre, Brockenhurst, and Hordle being nearly completed.

Water Supply.

Brockenhurst is supplied by The South Hants Water Supply Company; New Milton, Milford, Hordle and Pennington by the West Hants Company. The quality of the water is good in each case and every endeavour is made to make the owners connect up their houses. Sway, Boldre and East Boldre have no water supply from any Company, obtaining their water from wells which is generally speaking of good quality.

Drainage and Sewerage.

New Milton has a drainage system which serves most of the parish connected with filter beds.

For Milford and Pennington a scheme has been adopted but has not yet been begun and there is little prospect of it at present. The Council have however taken over the private sewer which belonged to the Newlands Estate which serves a part of Milford.

It would be a good thing to extend this so as to serve a further portion of the village and I would recommend that the stream be cleaned out twice a year instead of once. In Pennington the Cesspool for the houses in Ridgway lane is a constant source of trouble and some proper drainage system should be adopted at once for this area. I would suggest connecting with the Lymington Sewer which runs quite close.

Boldre, Sway, Hordle and East Boldre have no drainage system and nothing is required as these parishes are rural in character and are served by Cesspools and Earth Closets.

The drainage scheme at Brockenhurst is now complete and some 50 houses have been connected and it is hoped that during the year more will connect up, especially the Inns and public places and the shops on the North side of Brookley Road.

The pollution of Brockenhurst Stream is much relieved by the new drainage scheme.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Continual inspection has been made of the district throughout the year. Total number of Cottage Inspections was 156. Inspections as regards nuisances with regard to written complaints were 66. Visits for inspection of Drains, Sewers, etc. 208. Inspection of Council's Sewerage Works

72. Visits by the Sanitary Inspector to the Isolation Hospital with reference to Drains and Fumigation and conveying Fever patients to the Hospital 48. Total number of Inspections 550.

In all cases where complaints have been made, the nuisances have been abated without recourse of Statutory notices.

All Cottages have been fumigated after removal of Fever patients and deaths from Phthisis.

Samples of water have been tested in all cases when requested.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

All those registered have been duly visited and their condition is generally satisfactory. In some cases repairs recommended have not been carried out owing to difficulties of cost and labour.

The Milk supply in the district is abundant, and a very large quantity is exported outside the district.

During the year, 30 samples of Food and Milk were examined and all food samples were found satisfactory. Of the 14 samples of milk, 2 were found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 5 per cent.

Slaughter Houses.

Slaughter houses have been visited and Council would do well to have these registered.

Housing Conditions.

Fifty-five working-class houses were erected and a further 37 begun.

One hundred and fifty-six dwelling houses were inspected for housing defects. Three houses were condemned and demolished and 29 houses were rendered fit for habitation as a result of recommendations following the inspection.

In conclusion, I think the district can be congratulated on a healthy year, as evidenced by the low death rate and the decrease in Infantile mortality.

Yours faithfully,

F. H. MATURIN.